

A02 EXPERIMENT WITH A RANGE OF MEDIA

LINKING TECHNIQUES TO ARTISTS AND THEMES

TEXTILES OF MEDIA

CLAY MIXED MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHS OIL PASTEL WATERCOLOUR PEN AND INK

Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

Refinement is the improvement of the idea. It does not involve radical changes, but is about making small changes which improve the idea in some way. This might be done by:

- Modification of the composition –e.g. replacing one object with another or changing a pose slightly
- Variation of a technique - e.g. trying oil pastel rather than painting to achieve an expressive style
- Adaptation of the idea - e.g. including some detail in the foreground of a landscape to add more depth and distance
- Alteration of an aspect - e.g. arranging objects in a triangular composition instead of a linear grouping, or changing the colour of the sky in a coastal scene to achieve a more dramatic atmosphere
- Enhancing an element of the idea - e.g. improving the application of a particular technique, or harmonising the background colours with other aspects of the composition
- Fine-tuning a technique or an aspect of the composition.
- Tweaking the positioning of a subject to make the composition more balanced, or to create more tension, as appropriate.

Refine	Making small improvements to your work after evaluating. Experimenting with different materials and techniques appropriate to your idea as your work progresses.
Media	Materials used to create a work of art.
Materials	The same as media but can also refer to the basis of the art work e.g., canvas, paper, book paper, brown paper etc.
Techniques	The method used to complete the art work, can be generic such as painting or more focus such as blending.
Processes	The method used to create artwork that usually follows a range of steps rather than just one skill.

Skills	Techniques
Drawing	Pencil, pen, charcoal, chalk, coloured pencils, biro, fineliner, white pen, coloured biros.
Painting	Acrylic, watercolour, oil, gouache.
Printmaking	Monoprint, etching, lino, collagraph, press print, poly block.
Textiles	Batik, free machining, hand embroidery, sublimation printing, weaving.
Photography	Digital, Photoshop, Editing by hand.

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Why experiment?

Experimenting with different materials is a good way to develop different visual elements in your project and to try out different effects. Understanding the properties of different materials and how they might be used can help you make effective choices in art and design work.

Take creative risks. Don't be afraid to experiment or work out of your comfort zone. Even if something is unsuccessful, you will have shown that you have tried and learned valuable lessons. Happy accidents can lead to exciting opportunities.

Choosing different materials and technique will affect the style of your work, and help you plan more effectively. Try different materials to find out which you enjoy working with, and which produce effects you are interested in, and which ones are more suitable to present personal and meaningful intentions.

Mixed media

Using a combination of different media gives you more ways to express yourself. This may be as simple as combining drawing and painting or creating a background of different papers to work over with paint or ink.

